

REMARKS:

This is a full and complete response to the office action dated December 1, 2009. Favorable reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

REGARDING THE CLAIMS:

Claims 9 and 11–21 are pending in the application. Claims 9 and 11–21 have been rejected. Claims 9 and 21 have been amended. Support for the amendment to claim 9 can be found at least on p. 9, lines 8–19 and p. 10, lines 1–4. Support for the amendment to claim 20 can be found at least on p. 11, lines 1–15, p. 13, lines 16–22, and p. 14, lines 1–7. No new matter has been added.

Amendment and cancellation of certain claims is not to be construed as a dedication to the public of any of the subject matter of the claims as previously presented.

INTERVIEW SUMMARY:

Applicant thanks the Office for the interview of December 2, 2009, during which applicant's representative, Kevin Greenleaf, discussed the application in view of the prior art with Examiner Kurt Rowan. Examiner Rowan is now retired, therefore, applicant discussed the application further with the currently assigned Examiner, Darren Ark, on February 28, 2010. During the February interview, Applicant and Examiner Ark discussed claim amendments that overcome the prior art of record. Applicant was advised that further searching may be required because Examiner Ark was recently assigned to the case.

REJECTIONS:

Claims 9, 11-12, 14 and 17-18 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by **Washington**, US 4,523,704. Claims 13 and 21 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over **Washington** in view of **Michal**, US 3,662,933. Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

Applicant has amended the claims as discussed in the February interview, thereby allowing them to even more clearly overcome the prior art rejections. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejections be withdrawn and a Notice of Allowance issue with respect to the currently pending claims.

The undersigned representative requests any extension of time that may be deemed necessary to further the prosecution of this application.

The undersigned representative authorizes the Commissioner to charge any additional fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 or 1.17 that may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 14-1437, referencing Attorney Docket No.: 7298.075.NPUS01.

In order to facilitate the resolution of any issues or questions presented by this paper, Applicant requests that the Examiner directly contact the undersigned by phone to further the discussion.

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Respectfully submitted,

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